Regularisng Causal Employees In ONGC

*337. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commissionn has employed a large number of casual workers in the projects who have been working there on casual basis regularly for more than two decades and have not been regularised in the services so far;

(b) if so, the reasonns therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to regularise these casual workers now and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PERTOLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) to (c) No, Sir, ONGC in its projects has not employed a large number of such casual workers who have been working regularly for more than two decades.

Dam in Assam

*338. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up any dam on the pattern of Bhakhra Nagal Dam in the State of Assam to control the havoc arising from flood situation every year;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto and by when it is likely to be set up in the State?

THE MINISER OF STATE IN THE MINSTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) to (c) Brahmaputra Board has completed investigations and preparation of detailed project report for a storage dam on Pagladiya river; a tributary of Brahmaputra in Nalbari district of Assam. The project envisages construction of a 26 meter high dam with a storage of 278 millon cubic meter to modrate floods; over an area of 40,000 hectares; provide irrigation facilities to a command of 54,000 hectares; and to produce 8.64 Gega watt hour of hydropower annnually. The project proposal has been taken up for implementaion as a Central Sector Project. The similarity between Pagladiya dam and Bhakra Nagal project is that both provide substantial irrigation benefits, but their scope in respect of flood management is quite different.

मध्य प्रदेश में कपास उत्पादन

*339. **श्री लक्खीराम अग्रवाल:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश में कपास को एक महत्वपूर्ण वाणिज्यिक और रेशेदार फसल के रूप में उगाया जाता है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वर्ष 1997 में कुल कितने क्षेत्र में कपास की खेती की जा रही थी और कपास उत्पादन कितना था;

(ग) वर्ष 1998 में कितने क्षेत्र में कपास की खेती की गई थी और उसका उत्पादन कितना था; और

(घ) मध्य प्रदेश तथा पंजाब में कपास का लागत मूल्य क्या है और दोनों राज्यों में प्रति एकड़ कपास उत्पादन का ब्यौरा क्या है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोम पाल): (क) से (घ) मध्य प्रदेश में कपास की फसल कुल फसल क्षेत्र का लगभग 2 प्र. श. है। वर्ष 1997-98 और 1998-99 के दौरान कपास के क्षेत्र और उत्पादन का आकलन इस प्रकार है:

मध्य प्रदेश में कपास का क्षेत्र तथा उत्पादन

वर्ष	क्षेत्र (लाख हैक्टेयर)	उत्पादन (प्रत्येक 170 कि.ग्रा. की लाख गांठें)
1997-98	5.17	5.04
1998-99	4.92	4.81

(घ) उत्पादन लागत और अन्य संगत घटकों के आधार पर वर्ष 1998-99 के लिए कपास का न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य एफ-414/एच-777/जे-34 किस्मों के लिए 1330 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल और एच-4 किस्म के लिए 1530 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल निर्धारित किया गया है।

जनवरी-फरवरी, 1999 के दौरान पंजाब में कपास की विभिन्न किस्मों की कीमतें 1775 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल से 2200 रुपये के बीच थीं जबकि मध्य प्रदेश में ये कीमतें 1750 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल से 1875 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल के दायरें में थीं।

वर्ष 1998-99 के दौरान पंजाब में प्रति हैक्टेयर कपास का उत्पादन 226 कि.ग्रा. और मध्य प्रदेश में 166 कि.ग्रा. होने का अनुमान है।

Independent Atomic Energy Regulatory Board

*340. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether India had signed in September, 1994 the Convention on Nuclear Safety, which stipulates a clear separation of the Nuclear Safety Regulatory Authority and the agency which promotes the utilisation of nuclear energy in all signatory nations;

(b) if so, whether this separation is maintained between Atomic Regulatory Board and Atomic Energy Commission as per the international convention; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the plans of Government to set up a truly independent Atomic Energy Regulatory Board in the interest of public safety and to conform to the Convention of Nuclear Safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As required by the Convention on Nuclear safety, effective separation exists between the funtions of the Regulatory Board i.e. Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and the agency which promotes the utilisation of nuclear energy.

(c) Does not arise.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Horticulture in Himachal Pradesh

2481. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating a programme to encourage horticulture and train farmers in the trade Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount proposed to be allocated during the Ninth Plan to each district, separately for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture & cooperation is already implementing Central Sector Schemes covering Horticulture crops of fruits, vegetables, flowers, mushroom, spices, medicinal and aromatic plants, bee keeping and use of plastics in agriculture etc. Some of these Schemes have the component of training of farmes under them.

(c) During the year 1998-99, Himachal Pradesh has been allocated a sum of Rs. 291.22 lakhs, under central sector horticulture schemes. The district-wise allocation is made by State Government based on the requirements and priorities.

Market Availability for Onion and Cotton

2482. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ever surveyed the market availability for the onion and cotton produced by India;

(b) if yes, then what is the present position; and

(c) whether there is any request from Maharashtra or their farmers pending with Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No specific study has been conducted on market availability for the onion and cotton produced by India. However, the assessment of onion production during 1998-99 was got conducted trough Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC). It is new assessed by the government that the production of onion in the country would be 47.5 lakh tonnes.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Requests for lifting the ban on export of onion were received from Marashtra. Consequently the ban on export of onion was lifted by Ministry of Commerce vide their Notification No. 42 (Re-98)/1997-2002 dated 5.3.99.